

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 5-10 and 12 are in independent form. Claims 1 and 5-10 have been amended by this Amendment. Claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and Claim Objections

Claims 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, and stand objected to for being in improper dependent form.

By this Amendment, claims 7-10 have been amended to attend to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and the Claim Objections. Claim 11 has been deleted without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. 101 and of the claim objections to claims 7-10 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-6 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but were deemed otherwise allowable by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, and 7-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,809,139 (*Girod*).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features deemed allowable from original allowable claim 4, which has been cancelled.

Allowable claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 7-10 have been rewritten to include the features deemed allowable from claim 1.

Claim 11 has been deleted.

Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 1-3, and 5-10 are in allowable form.

Claim 12 was not addressed in the office action, but applicant submits that claim 12 is also in allowable form.

Thus, applicants submit that each of the claims of the present application are patentable over the references of record, either taken alone, or in any proposed hypothetical combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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